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Attorney Docket: 121640-40278094  
Client Reference: 9780US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re PATENT APPLICATION of: AVIDES  
MOREIRA ET AL.  
Application No.: 09/801,090

Confirmation Number: 6854

Group Art Unit: 1734

Filed: March 8, 2001

Examiner: Purvis, Sue A.

Title: CONNECTION WITH A COMPONENT PRODUCED OF A THERMOPLASTIC  
ELASTOMER

August 26, 2004

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 7, 2004, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following amendments and accompanying Remarks and arguments. The following parts are included in this communication:

- Amendments to the claims, which include a complete listing of the claims; and
- Remarks and Arguments.